

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As the House begins crafting appropriations legislation before the current continuing resolution expires on December 11, 2014, we write to express our deep concern with the current funding level provided for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In any continuing resolution or omnibus appropriations package for FY 2015, we urge you to work with your colleagues in the Senate to fully restore NIH funding to at least the agency's pre-sequester level, adjusted for inflation, in order to maintain America's role as a global leader in biomedical research and ground-breaking medical discoveries.

We are concerned that, over the last 10 years, the federal government's contributions toward basic research at NIH have consistently failed to keep pace with inflation. By failing to at least hold NIH funding constant with other rising costs, Congress has allowed the agency's purchasing power to diminish by more than 20 percent since 2003. Irresponsible budget cuts imposed on the agency during sequestration only further exacerbated this trend, reducing NIH's budget by an additional 5 percent in FY 2013. As the growth in other countries' investments in medical research continues to far outpace those made here in the U.S., it is more critical than ever that we act to reverse this trend.

Insufficient funding for NIH has a serious, wide-ranging impact on our nation's health and our capacity for medical innovation in the 21st century. If we are serious about breaking new ground in our understanding of complex diseases like Alzheimer's and cancer, and if we hope to accelerate the speed with which new cures, treatments and vaccines are developed – goals that are supported by Congressional leaders of both parties – then it's absolutely essential that we increase funding for medical research at NIH. Particularly given our constituents' renewed focus in recent months on developing vaccines and treatments for diseases like Ebola and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), we feel strongly that now is the time to invest in our nation's long-term health and prosperity.

While we understand the difficult fiscal challenges you face, we urge you to prioritize the important role that NIH plays in biomedical research and economic growth by working to fully

restore its funding to at least pre-sequester levels, adjusted for inflation. Thank you for your consideration.

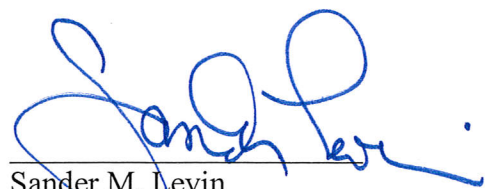
Sincerely,



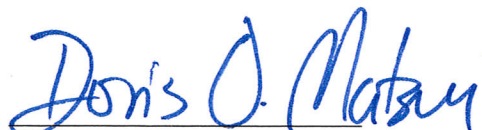
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



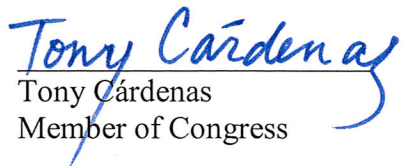
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



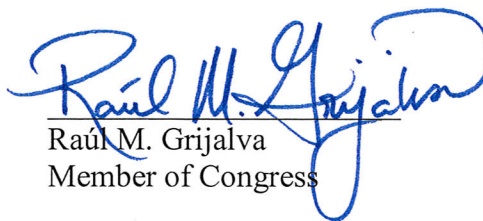
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



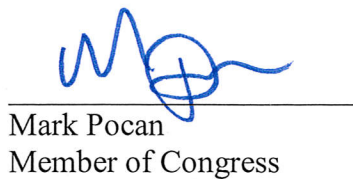
Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



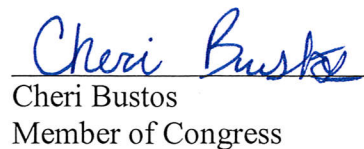
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



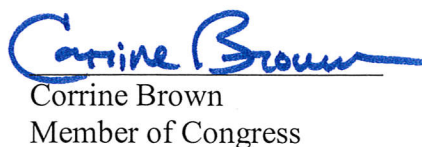
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



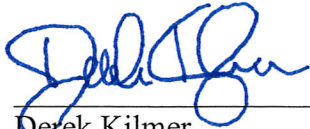
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



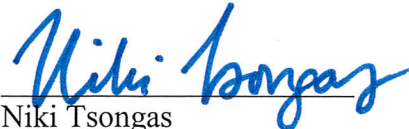
Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
Member of Congress



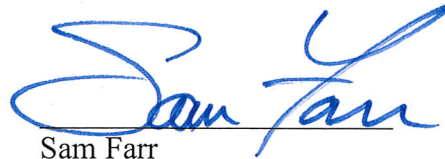
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



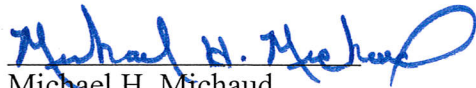
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



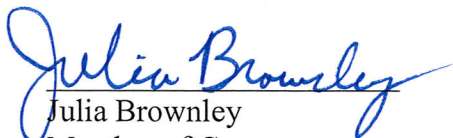
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



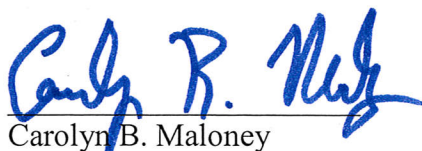
Ron Barber
Member of Congress



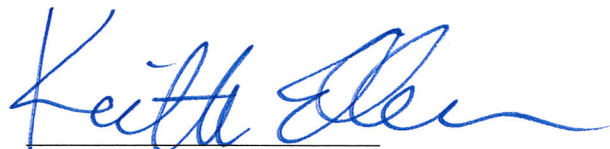
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



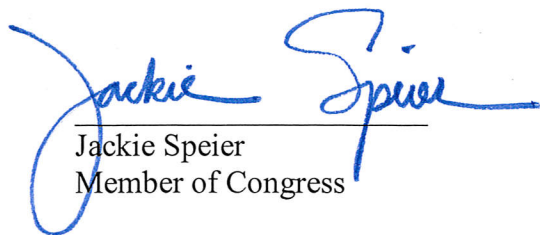
Dina Titus
Member of Congress

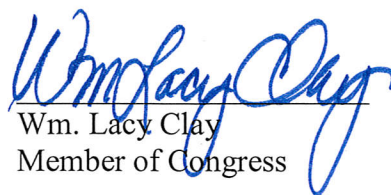


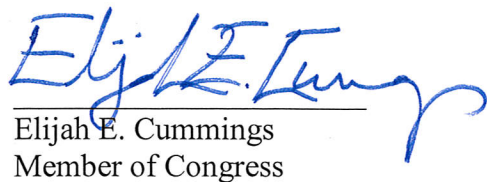
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

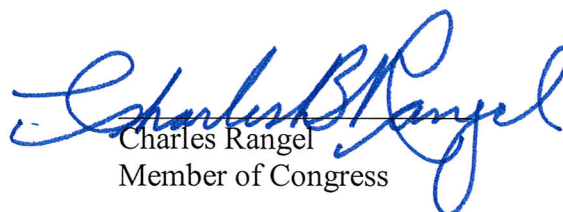


Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

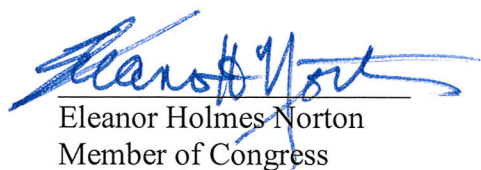

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

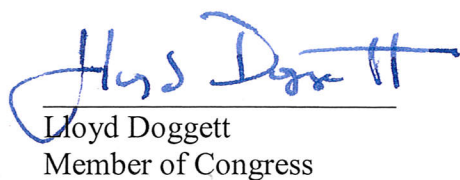

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

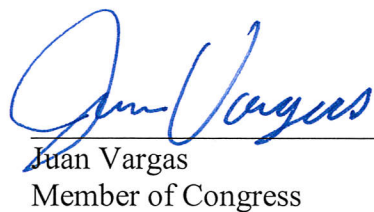

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

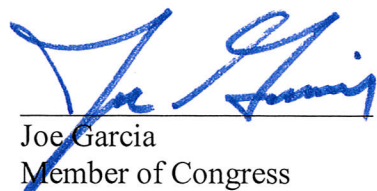

Charles Rangel
Member of Congress

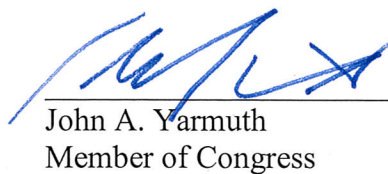

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

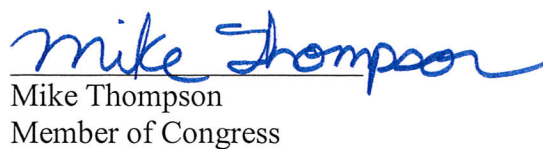

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

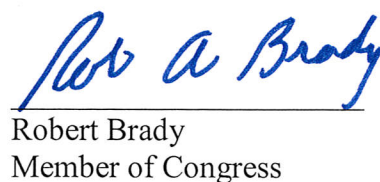

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

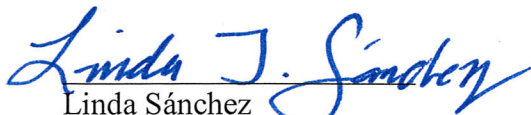

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress


Joe Garcia
Member of Congress

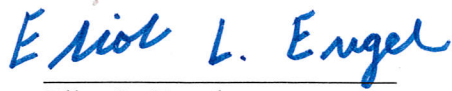

John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress

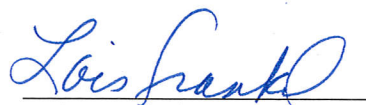

Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress


Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress


Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

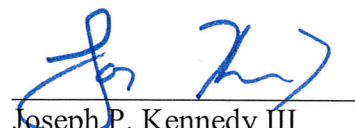

Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress


G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

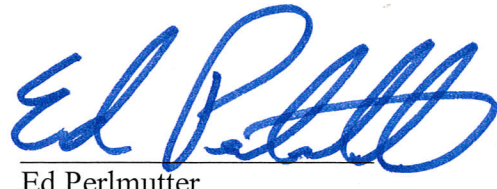

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

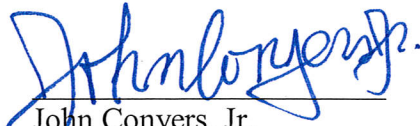

Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress

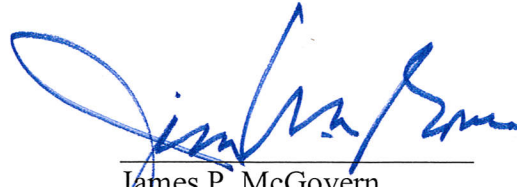

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

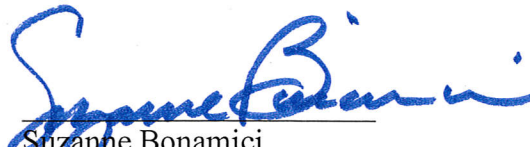

Dan Maffei
Member of Congress


Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress

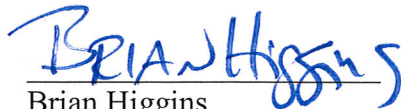

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress

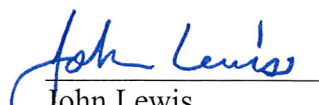

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



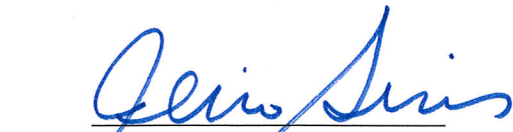
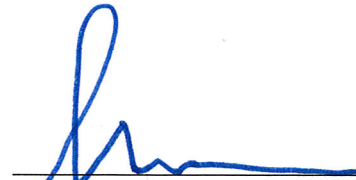
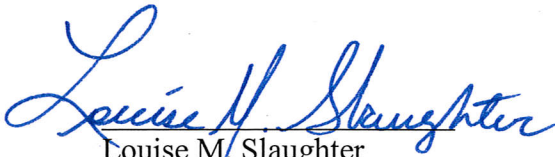


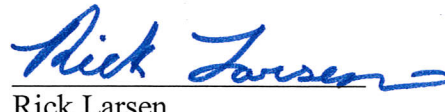


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

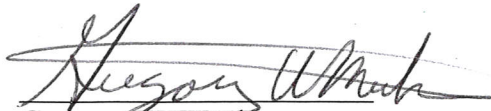

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress


Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress
Albio Sires
Member of Congress
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress
Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress


Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

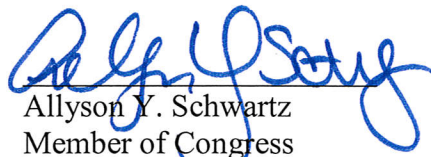

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

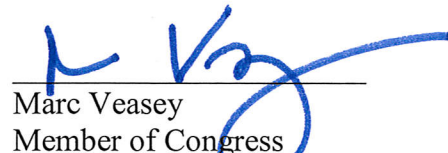

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

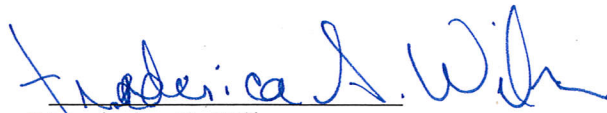

Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Timothy Bishop
Member of Congress


Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

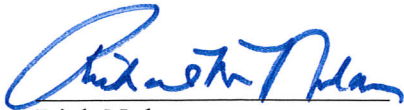

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

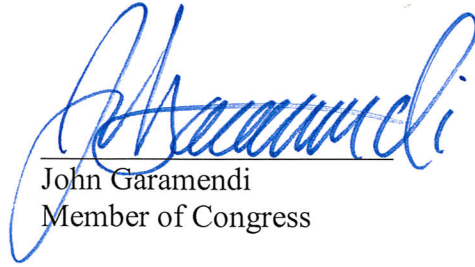

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

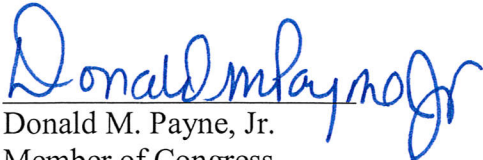

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Rick Nolan
Member of Congress




John Garamendi
Member of Congress



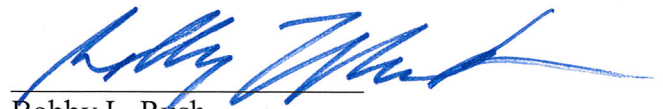
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



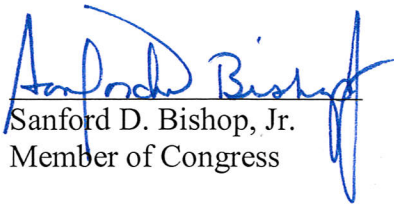
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



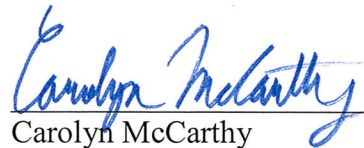
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



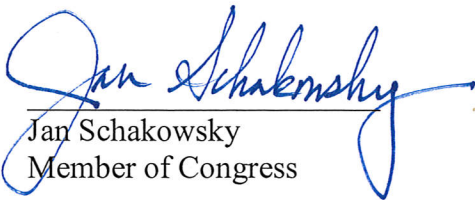
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



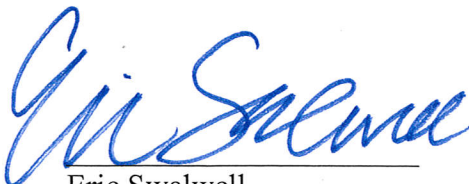
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



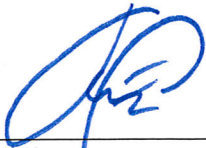
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



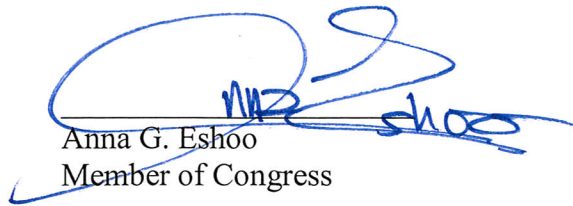
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



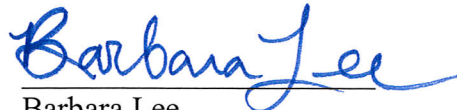
André D. Carson
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



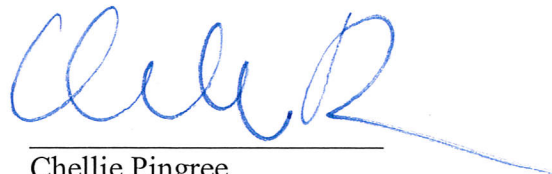
John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



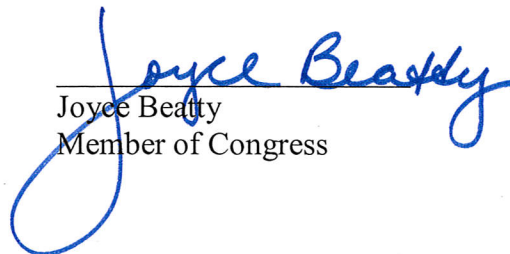
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



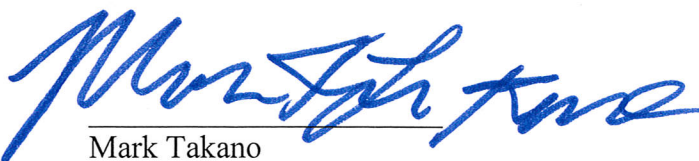
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



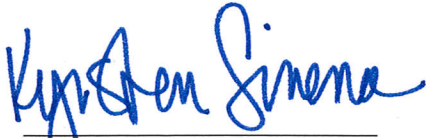
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



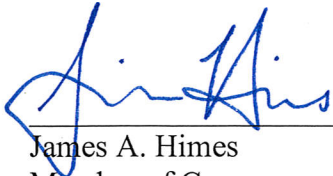
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



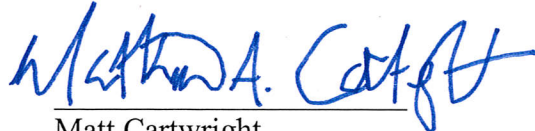
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



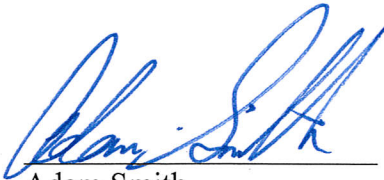
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



James A. Himes
Member of Congress



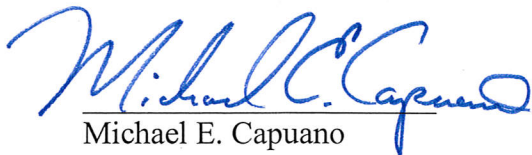
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



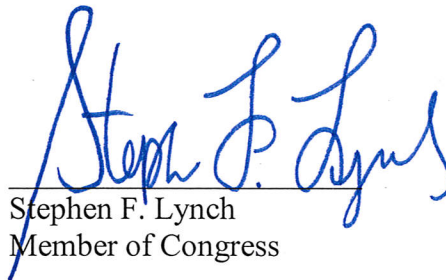
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Mike M. Honda
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress